

Documents on Diplomacy: The Source

China Asks for Help

Ambassador Johnson to the Secretary of State, Peking, September 19, 1931

[Received September 19—7 a.m.]

602. My 599, September 19 17 and 600, September 19, 11 a. m. [noon].

Wellington Koo has just come to me from Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang [in Manchuria] to confirm reports contained in my two telegrams above referred to and to say that Japanese military forces were in occupation of the city of Mukden and that they had placed troops at all administrative offices including the Marshal's headquarters. Occupation of Kowpangtze cuts Manchuria off completely from China. Koo stated that Marshal Chang had reported matter to Nanking. In the course of conversation Koo brought up League possible action on the part of China or powers

either under the Covenant of the League, the Kellogg pact or article VII of the Nine-Power Treaty regarding principles and policies. With reference to the treaty regarding principles and policies he suggested possibility of the United States starting a discussion among interested powers.

I told Koo that I had informed Department of incidents thus far reported to me, that I was not in a position to know what attitude my Government would take as to the basis for the dispute and that I thought it would take a little time to learn what it was about and what should be done. Koo departed asking me to inform him of any views that Washington might have in regard to this matter. . . .

JOHNSON

Source

United States Department of State, *United States Department of State/ Papers relating to the foreign relations of the United States, 1931*, p. 12

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